



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

EN 1201 COMPOSITION (WINTER 2011)

3 credits (45hrs)

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Andrew Nelson **PHONE:** TBA
OFFICE: C202 **E-MAIL:** anelson@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: TBA

PREREQUISITES: None.

REQUIRED TEXT: Diana Hacker, *The Canadian Writer's Reference*, 4th ed. with 2009 MLA update (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009).

RECOMMENDED TEXT: William Strunk, Jr. and E.B. White, *The Elements of Style*.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: Construction of sentences, paragraphs, essays and application of appropriate punctuation, tone, and grammar for formal academic essays.

CONTACT HOURS: Two 80-minute sessions per week.

DELIVERY MODES: Lectures, discussions, group tasks, peer review, and two "field trips" to the library.

OBJECTIVES:

- Students will improve their critical thinking and writing skills.
- Students will show competence in structuring academic essays.
- Students will show competence in revising and editing their own work.
- Students will demonstrate the techniques and skills of scholarly research.
- Students will write a research paper that shows competence in using MLA conventions for in-text citations and the works cited list.
- Students will learn that writing is a collaborative effort, made stronger by peer review and feedback.

TRANSFERABILITY: Accepted by The University of Lethbridge as a junior prerequisite for senior literature courses. Not acceptable by University of Alberta as a prerequisite for senior English courses. If you are transferring to the University of Calgary, you will need EN1201 and a 3 credit course in English Literature as a prerequisite for senior English courses. Transfer: UA, AC, UL, AU, CU, CUC, KUC. NB: a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.

GRADING CRITERIA:

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A ⁺	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 89	
A ⁻	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B ⁺	3.3	77 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 76	GOOD
B ⁻	2.7	70 – 72	
C ⁺	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 66	
C ⁻	1.7	60 – 62	
D ⁺	1.3	55 – 59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

EVALUATION: Students will be evaluated on three smaller writing assignments (designated “SA” below and in the syllabus) and a series of progressive tasks (designated “RE”) that lead up to the completion of a 1,500-word research essay. All assignments will be explained in detail in class.

- 5% RE: Preliminary thesis statement with rationale, due week 4.1
- 5% SA: 500-word essay on an assigned topic, due week 5.1
- 5% RE: Outline, due week 6.1
- 10% SA: 500-word analysis of an assigned piece, due week 7.1
- 15% SA: 750-word analytical essay with proper citations, due week 9.2
- 10% RE: Annotated bibliography of five sources, due week 10.1
- 5% RE: Draft with accompanying letter, due week 13.1
- 25% RE: Final essay, due during examination period (date TBD)
- 10% Peer review
- 10% Attendance and participation

All assignments must be handed in at the start of class on the day on which they are due. In cases of illness or bereavement, late assignments will only be accepted if accompanied by official documentation (e.g. a note from your physician). All other late assignments will be penalized 3% per day.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: Students are expected to come to class prepared. Students must complete the assigned reading or other preparatory tasks ahead of each class, and be willing to discuss pertinent issues with both the instructor and their peers in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

Attendance will be taken at the start of each class. Students are responsible for catching up on any material missed due to absence. If you are going to miss class, you must let me know **ahead of time** by email. Students are permitted one unexplained absence, after which 1% per class will be deducted, up to the maximum of 10%. Be advised that simply being physically present in the classroom does not constitute participation.

All work submitted for evaluation must be submitted on 8½" by 11" paper, typed in a standard font with 1" margins on all sides, paginated, and stapled in the top left corner. No paper clips or folders, please. The student's name and student number should appear on each page.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Plagiarism is the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. It is the most serious and, sadly, common academic offense. Please refer to pages 49-50 of the College calendar for information about plagiarism, cheating and the resultant penalties. **These are serious issues and will be dealt with severely.**

TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week 1	Welcome and introduction
Week 2	Elements of Style
Reading	Hacker, <i>Canadian Writer's Handbook</i> , sections W, G, P and M
Week 3	Thesis statement
Reading	Hacker, C1 and C2. Also, begin to review MLA, APA, CMS
Week 4	Topic sentences and effective paragraphs
Reading	Hacker, S1-7, C3 and C4
RE	Preliminary thesis statement with rationale, due week 4.1
Week 5	Argument and counterargument
Reading	Hacker A1-3
SA	500-word essay on an assigned topic, due week 5.1
Week 6	Peer review
RE	Outline, due week 6.1
Week 7	Avoiding plagiarism and correct citation
Reading	Hacker R3, R4, MLA, APA, CMS
SA	500-word analysis of an assigned piece, due week 7.1
Week 8	Using the library
Reading	Hacker R1

Week 9	Evaluating sources
Reading	Hacker, R2
SA	750-word analytical essay with proper citations, due week 9.2
Week 10	More elements of style
RE	Annotated bibliography of five sources, due week 10.1
Week 11	Writing in the disciplines
Reading	Hacker, A4
Week 12	Research essay workshop
Week 13	Peer review
RE	Draft with accompanying letter, due week 13.1.
Week 14	Revision and farewell
Exam period (4/14-4/27)	
RE	Final essay, due during examination period (date TBD)